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SUBJECT: Lukashenko Continues His Slander Campaign

¶1. Summary: President Lukashenko continues to slander the U.S. and the Belarusian opposition via the state-controlled media on a daily basis. In recent speeches he has accused the U.S. and the West of trying to destabilize Belarus using the country's ethnic Poles as pawns and training revolutionaries along the border in pro-American countries. Lukashenko opined that the Belarusian opposition would fail in the upcoming elections and soon disappear altogether. He noted foreign broadcasts to Belarus do not worry him, but the KGB will monitor them just in case. Lukashenko stressed he would not spend excessive money on an election campaign and disapproved of portraying himself in a positive light. He has improved the country, not plundered it, and therefore does not fear losing his position. End Summary.

The U.S. Blame Game

¶2. At a July 26 government conference, President Lukashenko accused the West, particularly the United States, of trying to destabilize Belarus. Lukashenko explained how the U.S. plans to maintain a unipolar world by controlling Russia's exports of natural resources. In order to do this, the U.S. must gain control of Belarus, much like it has done with Ukraine and the Baltics. Once Belarus has fallen, the U.S. would control all natural resource routes between Russia and Europe and essentially maintain its superpower status.

¶3. According to the president, the U.S. and its Western friends have set up surveillance bases in Lithuania, Poland, and Ukraine that are training revolutionary groups to lead an uprising in Belarus. Lukashenko announced that his government is well aware of these plans and will use all constitutional means available to prevent a revolution. [Note: A law adopted in November 2004 gives Lukashenko the legitimacy to authorize police and troops to open fire on people (i.e. protestors) when needed.]

¶4. Lukashenko opined that no Western European country is happy with U.S. politics. Similar to Latvia and Ukraine, Poland has adopted pro-American politics and therefore, has become "a bone in the throat" for the rest of Europe. Washington and Warsaw are using the ethnic Poles in Belarus as "puppets" to bring instability to Belarus. However, Lukashenko stressed he would not allow Belarusian citizens to be "cannon fodder" for the U.S.

Opposition's End in Sight

¶5. On August 15, Lukashenko claimed the opposition

should be barred from power because they hate people. In his words, the opposition will lose the 2006 election, realize their failures, and soon afterwards disappear. Half of them have already left the country to live in "villas" in the Czech Republic, Baltics, Poland, and Germany but are battling with their "masters" over USD 40 million allocated to launch radio broadcasts to Belarus. The opposition is worried that it will not get its money.

Radio Broadcasting Waste of Money

¶6. Lukashenko claimed he is not against foreign radio broadcasts to Belarus and does not have time to worry about them; this is the secret service's job. He publicly announced that the BKGB would monitor the radio broadcasts and inform the president if there are any emergencies. According to Lukashenko, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine use their negative information and news coverage on Belarus to distract citizens from their own domestic problems. The President commented that, fortunately, Belarusian journalists are winning the information war, and therefore foreign radio broadcasts represent a pointless waste of resources.

No Excessive Campaigning

¶7. The president stated that he does not "shiver" at the thought that he may lose power because people who constantly fear for their jobs cannot work well. After all, the people support him for his good deeds and the fact that he has not plundered the country. Lukashenko

MINSK 00001052 002 OF 002

claimed his lack of fear is his biggest advantage.

Furthermore, he claimed he would not spend a lot of money on an excessive PR and pre-election campaign because he is not the type of president to "dust" people's eyes and portray himself in a positive light. The people know who Lukashenko is because his policies have remained consistent over the years.

Comment

¶8. Lukashenko's slanderous statements against the West and the U.S. in particular are increasing in frequency and vitriol as the 2006 presidential election approaches. Though ludicrous, his messages' constant repetition in the state-controlled media has a significant impact on the population thinking.

PHLIPOT